CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1530
3 June 1998

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A JOINT STATEMENT BY MR. GUIDO DI TELLA, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ARGENTINA AND MRS. TARJA HALONEN, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND ON THE INDIAN AND PAKISTANI NUCLEAR TESTS

I have the honour to transmit to you the joint statement by Mr. Guido Di Tella, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina and Mrs. Tarja Halonen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland on the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests. The statement was issued on 30 May 1998 in Helsinki, in connection with the State visit of President Carlos Menem of Argentina to Finland.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Markku Reimaa
Ambassador

GE.98-62164

The joint statement made in Helsinki 30 May 1998 by Mr. Guido Di Tella, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina and Mrs. Tarja Halonen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland on the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests.

Argentina and Finland are dismayed and disappointed at the news on nuclear tests by India and Pakistan. We urge the two countries to refrain from any further tests.

The recent tests are contrary to global efforts towards nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. They also undermine the stability and threaten to trigger an accelerated arms race in the region.

Argentina and Finland together with the International Community underline the importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation on Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

We appeal to India and Pakistan to become parties to the NPT and CTBT and call for a peaceful dialogue to address the causes of the tensions between them.

Argentina and Finland reiterate their common commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and other weapons of mass destruction as well as their conviction to abstain from their development or possession. Total transparency in this matter constitutes the best guarantee for regional and global peace and security and friendship among nations, as it is shown in their respective regions in the Americas and Europe.+++